AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for combating spam comprising:

        classifying a message at least partially by evaluating at least one message parameter, using at least one ~~variable criterion~~ stored parameter template, thereby providing a spam classification; and

        handling said message based on said spam classification.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for combating spam according to claim 1 and wherein said at least one ~~variable criterion~~ stored parameter template comprises ~~a criterion~~ parameter template which changes over time.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method for combating spam according to claim 1 and wherein said classifying comprises:

        said using at least one ~~variable criterion~~ stored parameter template comprising using said at least one stored parameter template at least one gateway; and

        said providing a spam ~~classifications~~ classification comprising providing said spam classification at least one server, said at least one server receiving evaluation outputs from said at least one gateway and providing said spam ~~classifications~~ classification to said at least one gateway.

5. (Original) A method for combating spam according to claim 4 and wherein said classifying also comprises:

        encrypting at least part of said evaluation outputs by employing a non-reversible encryption so as to generate encrypted information; and

        transmitting at least said encrypted information to said at least one server.

6. (Original) A method for combating spam according to claim 5 and wherein said transmitting comprises transmitting information of a length limited to a predefined threshold.

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7. (Previously Presented) A method for combating spam according to claim 1 and wherein said handling comprises at least one of:

> forwarding said message to an addressee of said message;
>
> storing said message in a predefined storage area;
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> deleting said message;
>
> rejecting said message;
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> sending said message to an originator of said message; and
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> delaying said message for a period of time and thereafter re-classifying said message.

8. (Previously Presented) A method for combating spam according to claim 1 and wherein said message comprises at least one of:

> an e-mail;
>
> a network packet;
>
> a digital telecom message; and
>
> an instant messaging message.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for combating spam according to claim 1 and wherein said classifying also comprises at least one of:

> requesting feedback from an addressee of said message;
>
> evaluating compliance of said message with a predefined policy;
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> evaluating registration status of at least one registered address in said message;
>
> analyzing a match among network references in said message;
>
> analyzing a match between at least one translatable address in said message and at least one other network reference in said message;
>
> at least partially actuating an unsubscribe feature in said message;
>
> analyzing an unsubscribe feature in said message;
>
> employing a variable criteria;

sending information to a server and receiving classification data based on said information;

employing classification data received from a server; and

employing stored classification data.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for combating spam comprising:

classifying messages at least partially by evaluating at least one message parameter of multiple messages, by employing at least one ~~evaluation criterion~~ stored parameter template which changes over time, thereby providing spam classifications; and

handling said messages based on said spam classifications.

11. (Original) A method for combating spam according to claim 10 and wherein said classifying is at least partially responsive to similarities between plural messages among said multiple messages, which similarities are reflected in said at least one message parameter.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for combating spam according to claim 10 and wherein said classifying is at least partially responsive to similarities between plural messages among said multiple messages, which similarities are reflected in outputs of applying said at least one ~~evaluation criterion~~ stored parameter template to said at least one message parameter.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for combating spam according to claim 10 and wherein said classifying is at least partially responsive to similarities in multiple outputs of applying a single ~~evaluation criterion~~ stored parameter template to said at least one message parameter in multiple messages.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for combating spam according to claim 10 and wherein said classifying is at least partially responsive to the extent of similarities between plural messages among said multiple messages which similarities are reflected in said at least one message parameter.

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15. (Currently Amended) A method for combating spam according to claim 10 and wherein said classifying is at least partially responsive to the extent of similarities between plural messages among said multiple messages which similarities are reflected in outputs of applying said at least one ~~evaluation criterion~~ stored parameter template to said at least one message parameter.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for combating spam according to claim 10 and wherein said classifying is at least partially responsive to the extent of similarities in multiple outputs of applying a single ~~evaluation criterion~~ stored parameter template to said at least one message parameter in multiple messages.

17. (Previously Presented) A method for combating spam according to claim 14 and wherein said extent of similarities comprises a count of messages among said multiple messages which are similar.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for combating spam according to claim 10 and wherein said classifying is at least partially responsive to similarities in outputs of applying ~~evaluation criteria~~ stored parameter templates to said at least one message parameter in multiple messages, wherein a plurality of different ~~evaluation criteria~~ stored parameter templates are individually applied to said at least one message parameter in said multiple messages, yielding a corresponding plurality of outputs indicating a corresponding plurality of similarities among said multiple messages.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 18 and wherein said classifying also comprises aggregating individual similarities among said plurality of similarities.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 19 and wherein said aggregating individual similarities among said plurality of similarities comprises applying weights to said individual similarities.

21-186. (Cancelled)

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